

Erika Haynes, Parent
Written Testimony
Education Committee Public Hearing
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I would like to thank the members of the Education Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1097. My name is Erika Haynes. I am a parent to 4 children and live in Windham.

Senate Bill 1097, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Education Reform Act of 2012, revises the timeline for the implementation of educator evaluations. This bill specifically delays the start of the educator evaluations until July 2014.

The Performance Evaluation Advisory Committee (PEAC) and the State Board of Education both unanimously approved the statewide phased-in approach to evaluation, beginning in the 2013 – 2014 school year. A phased-in approach allows for districts, working with the union, to determine the efficacy of a model before execution of a mandatory 100% participation.

SB1097 eliminates this phased-in approach. The trial year would require all districts to participate, but not at 100% participation. With the removal of a trial year districts lose the ability to learn how to best implement evaluation. Districts and unions also lose key partnership building opportunities, via dialogue regarding the analysis of the trial year execution of evaluation.

We must keep in mind that these evaluation measures are meant as support measures: measures to support teachers, districts and, most importantly, students.

Evaluation is critical to our schools' success. Financially, it allows districts to best target their professional development dollars in areas that are most needed. Professionally, it allows districts to identify successful teachers and best practices in a meaningful way to support other teachers.

The PEAC and State Board of Education unanimously approved the original, phased-in approach to evaluation. Their process to do so was thoughtful. Their outcome was comprehensive. I urge you to support the initial work they did, rather than change the timeline.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony about Senate Bill 1097.